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2016

# Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (1979-1992): Report 10

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## FACT SHEET

### Business Support of the Arts<sup>1</sup>

- Business support of the arts reached a record level of \$436 million in 1979, up from only \$22 million in 1967
- The arts are receiving a larger share of business' overall philanthropic contributions than ever before; of the total business contribution in 1979 to all philanthropic causes, the arts received 13.3%--up from only 8.9% in 1970.
- 27% of the companies responding to a recent survey said they intended to increase their arts support over the next three years, and 58% said they planned to maintain their current level of support

### The Public and the Arts<sup>2</sup>

- By a majority of 59% to 39%, Americans reject the idea that the arts are only for a privileged few
- 81% of the public feels it important to have more and better arts and cultural facilities for both the performing and visual arts in their communities
- An 86% to 9% majority feels that it is important to the business and economy of their communities to have such facilities
- 51% of Americans favor paying an additional \$25 a year in federal taxes to help support the arts, and an overwhelming 70% are willing to pay \$5 additional

### The National Endowment for the Arts

- The \$175 million in NEA funding that Carter's last budget proposed represents .0236% of the Federal budget, and even that fraction has decreased from the 1980 level of .0266%
- The NEA's Challenge Grant Program, which is only one of the many Endowment programs requiring some matching funds, has awarded \$84 million in grants during its three years of existence, and has generated \$500 million in new support for the arts, from both private and local sources

<sup>1</sup> Triennial Survey of Business Support of the Arts, compiled by the Business Committee for the Arts

<sup>2</sup> Americans and the Arts III, a survey conducted by the National Research Center of the Arts, an affiliate of Louis Harris and Associates